IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A reproduction apparatus for reproducing video or audio information recorded in a storage medium, comprising:

an encryption system detection means for detecting whether the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is encrypted or not in accordance with a predetermined encryption system;

an electronic watermark detection means for detecting an electronic watermark information indicative of a copy management information, including at least copy prohibition which is superimposed onto the video or audio information, in a case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is detected in said encryption system detection means as being not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system; and

a reproduction restricting means for controlling reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with said copy management information, when any of the copy management information is detected upon a detection result by said watermark detection means, in a case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system.

2. (Previously Presented) A reproduction apparatus as defined in the claim 1, comprising:

an information analysis means for analyzing whether the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is a regular video or audio information or not, from which the electronic watermark can be detected in the watermark detection circuit, in the case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system, wherein

said reproduction restricting means controls the reproduction of the video or audio information, when it is not decided to be the regular video or audio information from which the watermark can be detected, in the case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system.

3. (Previously Presented) A decoding apparatus, being inputted with coded video or audio information, for decoding the video or audio information so as to be outputted, comprising:

a decryption designation input means for indicating a necessity of decryption of encrypted data in accordance with if an input code data is encrypted or not;

a decryption means for restoring an original video or audio information which is coded by decrypting the input code data which is encrypted;

a selecting means for switching between an output of said decryption means and an output without using said decryption means;

a decoding means for decoding the coded video or audio information, which is outputted from said selecting means;

an electronic watermark detection means for detecting an electronic watermark information indicative of a copy management information, including at least copy prohibition which is superimposed onto the video or audio information; and,

a reproduction restricting means for controlling reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with said copy management information, when any copy management information is detected upon a detection result by said electronic watermark detection means, in case of decoding the coded video or audio information which is inputted, directly without using said decryption means.

4. (Previously Presented) A reproduction apparatus as defined in the claim 1, comprising:

a medium and format deciding means for deciding a kind from a plurality of storage mediums and a recording format thereof, wherein,

said encryption system detection means detects whether the data on said medium is encrypted or not in accordance with the encryption system which is corresponding to each of the kinds of said plurality of storage mediums and the recording format thereon, and,

said reproduction restricting means controls reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with the copy management information when any of the copy management information is detected upon detection result by said watermark detection means, in a case that the video and audio information is not encrypted in

accordance with an encryption system which is corresponding to each of the kinds of said plurality of storage mediums and the recording format thereon.

C1

5. (Previously Presented) A decoding apparatus, being inputted with coded video or audio information, for decoding the video or audio information so as to be outputted, comprising:

a decryption means for restoring an original video or audio information which is coded by decrypting an input code data which is encrypted;

an AXE means for conducting an authentication between a supply device of the input code data and key exchange necessary for decryption;

a selection means for switching between an output from the decryption means and an output provided without using the decryption means;

a decoding means for decoding the coded video or audio information, which is outputted from said selection means;

a watermark detection means for detecting a watermark information indicative of a copy management information, including at least copy prohibition which is superimposed onto the video or audio information;

a reproduction restricting means for operating said electronic watermark detection means, if the decoding is started under a condition where the authentication and the key exchange are not yet established in said AXE means, and for controlling the output of the video or audio information in accordance with said copy management information, when any one of the copy management information is detected by means of said electronic watermark detection means.

6. (Previously Presented) A reproducing method for reproducing video or audio information recorded in a storage medium, comprising:

an encryption system detection for detecting whether the video or audio information recorded in the storage medium is encrypted in accordance with a predetermined encryption system or not;

an electronic watermark detecting for detecting electronic watermark information indicative of copy management information, including at least a copying prohibition which is superimposed onto the video or audio information, in a case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system; and

a reproduction restricting for controlling reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with said copy management information, when any one of the copy management information is detected upon a detection result of said electronic watermark detection step.

7. (Previously Presented) A reproducing method, as described in the claim 6, comprising;

a medium and format deciding for deciding a kind from a plurality of storage mediums and a recording format thereof, wherein

said encryption system detecting detects whether the data on said medium is encrypted or not in accordance with the encryption system which is corresponding to each of the kinds of said plurality of storage mediums and the recording format thereon, and

reproduction of the video or audio information is stopped, in a case if not being encrypted in accordance with the encryption system corresponding to the kind of the storage medium and the recording format on said storage medium, which are decided in said medium and format deciding operation.

8. (New) A reproduction apparatus as defined in the claim 1, wherein the electronic watermark detection means is connected to receive and use non-decrypted video or audio information for detecting an electronic watermark information indicative of a copy management information.

9. (New) A reproduction apparatus as defined in the claim 1, wherein a detected type of storage medium is used to set the predetermined encryption system expected in the detecting whether the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is encrypted or not in accordance with the predetermined encryption system.

10. (New) A system comprising:

a reproduction apparatus for reproducing video or audio information recorded in a storage medium, including:

an encryption system detection means for detecting whether the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is encrypted or not in accordance with a predetermined encryption system;

an electronic watermark detection means for detecting an electronic watermark information indicative of a copy management information, including at least copy prohibition which is superimposed onto the video or audio information, in a case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is detected in said encryption system detection means as being not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system; and

a reproduction restricting means for controlling reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with said copy management information, when any of the copy management information is detected upon a detection result by said watermark detection means, in a case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system; and

at least one of: a reader to read information recorded in the storage medium and supply the same to the reproduction apparatus; and an output unit to receive an output of the reproduction apparatus to produce at least one of audio sound and video display.

11. (New) A system as defined in the claim 10, wherein the reproduction apparatus comprising:

an information analysis means for analyzing whether the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is a regular video or audio information

or not, from which the electronic watermark can be detected in the watermark detection circuit, in the case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system, wherein

said reproduction restricting means controls the reproduction of the video or audio information, when it is not decided to be the regular video or audio information from which the watermark can be detected, in the case where the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is not encrypted in accordance with the predetermined encryption system.

12. (New) A system comprising:

a decoding apparatus, being inputted with coded video or audio information, for decoding the video or audio information so as to be outputted, including:

a decryption designation input means for indicating a necessity of decryption of encrypted data in accordance with if an input code data is encrypted or not;

a decryption means for restoring an original video or audio information which is coded by decrypting the input code data which is encrypted;

a selecting means for switching between an output of said decryption means and an output without using said decryption means;

a decoding means for decoding the coded video or audio information, which is outputted from said selecting means;

an electronic watermark detection means for detecting an electronic watermark information indicative of a copy management information, including at least copy prohibition which is superimposed onto the video or audio information; and,

a reproduction restricting means for controlling reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with said copy management information, when any copy management information is detected upon a detection result by said electronic watermark detection means, in case of decoding the coded video or audio information which is inputted, directly without using said decryption means; and

at least one of: a reader to read information recorded in storage and supply the same to the decoding apparatus; and an output unit to receive an output of the reproduction apparatus to produce at least one of audio sound and video display.

13. (New) A system as defined in the claim 10, wherein the reproduction apparatus comprising:

a medium and format deciding means for deciding a kind from a plurality of storage mediums and a recording format thereof, wherein,

said encryption system detection means detects whether the data on said medium is encrypted or not in accordance with the encryption system which is corresponding to each of the kinds of said plurality of storage mediums and the recording format thereon, and,

said reproduction restricting means controls reproduction of the video or audio information in accordance with the copy management information when any of the copy management information is detected upon detection result by said watermark detection means, in a case that the video and audio information is not encrypted in accordance with an encryption system which is corresponding to each of the kinds of said plurality of storage mediums and the recording format thereon.

14. (New) A system as defined in the claim 10, wherein the electronic watermark detection means is connected to receive and use non-decrypted video or audio information for detecting an electronic watermark information indicative of a copy management information.

15. (New) A system as defined in the claim 10, wherein a detected type of storage medium is used to set the predetermined encryption system expected in the detecting whether the video or audio information recorded in said storage medium is encrypted or not in accordance with the predetermined encryption system.